

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 OIC-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-10 NSAE-00

PA-02 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-02

NSC-05 OMB-01 EB-07 MC-02 COME-00 AF-08 IO-13 SAM-01

NEA-10 CG-00 DOTE-00 ERDA-07 ERDE-00 OES-06 /122 W

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O R 191620Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9032

AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

USNMR SHAPE

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DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/CE

OSLO FOR DAVID ANDERSON AND ROBERT GERMAN

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NATO, MPOL, GW

SUBJECT: NATO MINISTERIAL PREVIEW: GENSCHER MAY 19  
NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW

REF: BONN 08514 DTG 191012Z MAY 76

BEGIN SUMMARY: BONN NEWSPAPER GENERAL ANZEIGER HAS PUBLISHED ON MAY 19 A WOLF BELL INTERVIEW OF FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER. INTERVIEW IS DIRECTLY KEYED TO THE UPCOMING NATO MINISTERIAL (AND TO THE QUADRIPARTITE MINISTERS' MEETING ON BERLIN AND GERMANY). THE SECTION ON BERLIN HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED IN REFTEL. THE FOLLOWING IS THE REMAINDER OF THE INTERVIEW IN AN INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN TEXT

QUESTION: IN THE RECENT PAST DOUBTS WERE VOICED IN VARIOUS QUARTERS AS TO NATO'S MILITARY AND POLITICAL CAPABILITY TO MEET THE OBJECTIVE THREAT EMANATING FROM THE CONTINUOUS STRENGTHENING OF THE MILITARY POTENTIAL OF THE WARSAW PACT. DO YOU SHARE THESE DOUBTS?

ANSWER: NO, I DON'T. THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE FULLY MEETS REQUIREMENTS. CERTAIN CRITICAL STATEMENTS ARE UNDOUBTEDLY EXAGGERATED. OVERPESSIMISM IS NO HELP; IT MERELY UNDERMINES CONFIDENCE IN THE ALLIANCE AND HELPS THE OTHER SIDE. AT THIS TIME I SEE MORE POSITIVE THAN NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENTS. THE FEELING OF SOLIDARITY IN THE ALLIANCE HAS GROWN IN RECENT MONTHS. BACKING OF THE ALLIANCE IS STRONGER THAN IT HAS BEEN FOR A LONG TIME IN THE US. NO LONGER IS THERE TALK ABOUT TROOP REDUCTIONS; INSTEAD, THERE ARE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT STRENGTHENING US DEFENSE AND THE STATIONING OF TWO NEW COMBAT BRIGADES IN LIEU OF SUPPLY TROOPS. SECRETARY KISSINGER SAID ONLY A SHORT TIME AGO THAT COOPERATION WITH THE EUROPEAN ALLIES HAS NEVER BEEN AS CLOSE DURING THE LAST 10 YEARS AS IT IS TODAY. IN FACT, IN EUROPE TOO THERE IS NO ONE WHO QUESTIONS THE NEED FOR CLOSE TRUSTING

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RELATIONS WITH THE US AND FOR THE MILITARY PRESENCE OF THE US ON THIS CONTINENT.

QUESTION: IN VIEW OF THE INTENSIFIED EFFORTS OF THE SOVIET UNION TO INCREASE ITS INFLUENCE IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD AND IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING SOVIET PRESENCE ON THE SEAS, SOME OBSERVERS FEEL THAT NATO ALSO OUGHT TO ADDRESS ITSELF TO SECURITY PROBLEMS OUT-

SIDE THE TERRITORY OF THE ALLIANCE AND TAKE PROPER PRE-CAUTIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF IMPORTANT MARITIME ROUTES.

ANSWER: THE PUBLIC FREQUENTLY CONFUSES TWO ASPECTS WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO DEAL WITH SEPARATELY. TO BEGIN WITH: THE CONTRACTUAL TERRITORY OF NATO IS CLEARLY DEFINED IN ARTICLE 6 OF THE NATO TREATY. THIS CONCERNS THE MILITARY ACTIVITIES OF THE ALLIANCE. THE POLITICAL ASPECT IS SOMETHING DIFFERENT. OWING TO ITS NATURE THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE HAS FUNCTIONS NOT ONLY FOR ITS CONTRACTUAL TERRITORY PROPER BUT IT ALSO TAKES PART IN THE INTERPLAY OF THE FORCES OF GLOBAL EQUILIBRIUM TO WHICH IT CONTRIBUTES. THIS IS WHY CHANGES IN THE STRATEGIC BALANCE OF POWER ALSO AFFECT THE SITUATION OF THE ALLIANCE. IN THIS CONTEXT THE MARITIME ARMAMENT EFFORTS OF THE SOVIET UNION HAVE TO BE VIEWED WITH

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NEA-10 CG-00 DOTE-00 ERDA-07 ERDE-00 OES-06 /122 W

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O R 191620Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9033

AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS  
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN  
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG  
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN  
USNMR SHAPE

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QUESTION: IN THE CENTRAL SECTOR OF NATO THE SITUATION IS RELATIVELY POSITIVE FOR THE ALLIANCE. BUT DOES NOT THE DANGER EXIST THAT THE WARSAW PACT OUTFLANKS NATO IN VIEW OF THE LATTER'S PROBLEMS AT ITS NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN FLANKS? HOW DO YOU ASSESS THE SITUATION AT THE SOUTHERN FLANK?

ANSWER: THE PROBLEMS OF THE SOUTHERN FLANK STEM NOT SO MUCH FROM MILITARY WEAKNESS AS FROM POLITICAL FACTORS. BUT I THINK THAT HERE, TOO, POSITIVE SIGNS PREVAIL. DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL JUSTIFY THE HOPE THAT THIS IMPORTANT ALLIANCE PARTNER WILL IN THE FUTURE CO-OPERATE IN THE ALLIANCE MORE INTENSIVELY AND WITH STILL GREATER FOCUS ON EUROPE. IN SPAIN THE DIFFICULT PROCESS OF TRANSFORMATION IN THE POST-FRANCO ERA WILL REQUIRE MUCH PATIENCE. WE ARE TRYING TO HELP SPAIN TO CREATE THE PREREQUISITES FOR ITS EARLY COOPERATION IN THE CIRCLE OF EUROPEAN DEMOCRACIES. AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTIONS IN ITALY, WE HOPE THE DIFFICULT SITUATION IN WHICH OUR EC AND NATO PARTNER FINDS ITSELF MAY BE STABILIZED BY SOLIDARITY AMONG THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES. AS FAR AS THE CYPRUS CONFLICT IS CONCERNED, WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS IN THE ALLIANCE, IN THE EC, AND ON THE BILATERAL PLANE TO NARROW THE GAP BETWEEN OUR ALLIANCE PARTNERS GREECE AND TURKEY. THE TWO AMERICAN AGREEMENTS WITH TURKEY AND GREECE--PROVIDED THEY ARE APPROVED BY CONGRESS, AS WE HOPE THEY WILL BE--MIGHT BE AN IMPORTANT STABILIZING FACTOR FOR THE WHOLE AREA OF

THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENTS, A CERTAIN IMPROVEMENT OF THE POLITICAL CLIMATE HAS ALREADY SET IN.

QUESTION: WHAT'S THE SITUATION OF THE NORTHERN FLANK?

ANSWER: REGIONALLY VIEWED, A MILITARY SUPERIORITY OF THE SOVIET UNION HAS ALWAYS EXISTED IN THE NORTHERN FLANK OF THE ALLIANCE, SO THAT WE ARE NOT FACED WITH A NEW SITUATION THERE. WE OUGHT TO SEE THE SOVIET UNION'S MARITIME DISPLAY OF POWER IN THAT AREA PRIMARILY UNDER UNCLASSIFIED

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THE ASPECT OF GLOBAL STRATEGY. THIS DOES NOT MAKE THINGS ANY EASIER, BUT COMPELS US TO TAKE THE SITUATION VERY SERIOUSLY. AND THAT IS WHY THE MISSION OF THE ALLIANCE IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE IN THAT AREA TOO. AT THE NORTHERN FLANK ALSO THE ALLIANCE PARTNERS MUST SHOW MORE SOLIDARITY AND OVERCOME THEIR DIVERGENCIES OF INTEREST. IN SOLVING ITS PROBLEMS WITH ICELAND, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY LET ITSELF BE GUIDED BY THIS POINT OF VIEW.

QUESTION: THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA STAGNATE, AND THE WARSAW PACT CONTINUES ITS EFFORTS TO INCREASE ITS ARMAMENT POTENTIAL. DO YOU SEE HERE A CONTRADICTION WITH THE POLICY OF DETENTE?

ANSWER: A REALISTIC POLICY OF DETENTE IS ONLY POSSIBLE ON THE BASIS OF A STRONG ALLIANCE. I HAVE STRESSED THAT AGAIN AND AGAIN. I HAVE NEVER HIDDEN MY CONCERN ABOUT THE CONTINUOUS STRENGTHENING OF SOVIET MILITARY POTENTIAL WHICH EXCEEDS OBJECTIVE DEFENSIVE REQUIREMENTS AND ALSO IMPAIRS THE CREDIBILITY OF A

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O R 191620Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9034

AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

CINC USAF RAMSTEIN

CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

USNMR SHAPE

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POLICY OF DETENTE AIMING AT LASTING STABILITY. WE DRAW

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TWO CONCLUSIONS FROM THIS. FIRST OF ALL, IN THE VIENNA  
NEGOTIATIONS ON MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS,  
THE ALLIANCE ENDEAVORS TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE  
COUNTRIES OF THE WARSAW PACT TO BRING ABOUT A NUMERICAL  
PARITY OF THE GROUND FORCES OF BOTH SIDES CONFRONTING  
EACH OTHER IN CENTRAL EUROPE. SUCH A PARITY WOULD  
BENEFIT STABILITY IN EUROPE, WHEREAS CONFIRMATION OF

THE SUPERIORITY OF THE WARSAW PACT--FOR WHICH THE WARSAW PACT CURRENTLY AIMS--WOULD HAVE A DESTABILIZING EFFECT. IN THE SECOND PLACE, AS LONG AS NO RESULTS ARE ACHIEVED IN VIENNA, THE WESTERN ALLIES MUST MAINTAIN THEIR DEFENSIVE EFFORTS AT THE REQUIRED LEVEL. RESPONSIBLE POLITICIANS IN THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF NATO ARE CHARGED WITH THE TASK OF POINTING OUT TO THEIR PEOPLE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THEIR DETERMINATION TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AND THEIR DEFENSIVE EFFORTS ON THE ONE HAND, AND PEACE, SECURITY AND FREEDOM ON THE OTHER.

QUESTION: ON WHAT WILL THE NATO MEETING IN OSLO FOCUS?

ANSWER: THE CONFERENCE WILL OFFER A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO ANALYZE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLICY OF DETENTE AND ALSO TO ANALYZE THE 1977 BELGRADE FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE ON CSCE IMPLEMENTATION. MOREOVER, THERE WILL BE AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON IMPORTANT TOPICS OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY. FROM THE OSLO CONFERENCE I ALSO EXPECT A NUMBER OF NEW INITIATIVES FOR THE OVERCOMING OF INTERNAL PROBLEMS. OF SPECIAL TOPICAL INTEREST ALSO WILL BE THE IMPROVEMENT OF COOPERATION IN THE ARMAMENTS FIELD. THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON QUESTIONS OF THE INTEROPERABILITY OF WEAPONS SYSTEMS WILL SUBMIT ITS FIRST INTERIM REPORT. WE ARE HOPING FOR POSITIVE RESULTS IN THIS REGARD.

TEXT CONTINUES WITH THE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON BERLIN PREVIOUSLY TRANSMITTED REFTEL.  
HILLENBRAND

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